

From: Christian, Megan [Christian.Megan@epa.gov]
on behalf of Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer [Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov]
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To: Weekly Report Group [Weekly_Report_Group@epa.gov]
CC: Hubbard, Carolyn [Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov]; Blackburn, Elizabeth [Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Rodan, Bruce [rodan.bruce@epa.gov]; Steenbock, John [Steenbock.John@epa.gov]; Robbins, Chris [Robbins.Chris@epa.gov]; Breen, Barry [Breen.Barry@epa.gov]; Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]; Dunn, Alexandra [dunn.alexandra@epa.gov]; Walker, Mary [walker.mary@epa.gov]; Servidio, Cosmo [Servidio.Cosmo@epa.gov]; Benevento, Douglas [benevento.douglas@epa.gov]; Gulliford, Jim [gulliford.jim@epa.gov]; Lopez, Peter [lopez.peter@epa.gov]; Darwin, Henry [darwin.henry@epa.gov]; Bodine, Susan [bodine.susan@epa.gov]; Ross, David [Ross.David@epa.gov]; Stepp, Cathy [stepp.cathy@epa.gov]; Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]; Wehrum, Bill [Wehrum.Bill@epa.gov]; Sauerhage, Maggie [Sauerhage.Maggie@epa.gov]; Dunlap, David [dunlap.david@epa.gov]; Hladick, Christopher [hladick.christopher@epa.gov]; Sopkin, Gregory [sopkin.gregory@epa.gov]
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Administrator,

Next week EPA Region 4 and State environmental leaders will meet with ORD at the EPA RTP facility on May 29-30. ORD will provide an update on the first day, along with regional and division updates and a state roundtable discussion. The second day will begin with a tour of the RTP facility and an ORD laboratory tour, including stops related to PFAS, harmful algal blooms and wildfires, followed by agenda topics including water quality trading and data sharing during disasters. This meeting will serve as an opportunity for EPA to learn more about the environmental challenges Region 4 Southeastern states are facing and receive feedback on how our research, methods and science-based tools could more effectively support states' efforts to protect the environment and public health.

Hot Issues

Cyanobacteria Assessment Network (CyAN) Mobile Application Patent Issued

On May, 14, 2019, a U.S. Patent was issued to EPA for the [CyAN](#) mobile application. CyAN is a multi-agency project (EPA, NASA, NOAA, and USGS) to develop an early warning indicator system using historical and current satellite data to detect algal blooms in U.S. freshwater systems. This research supports federal, state, and local partners in their monitoring efforts to assess water quality to protect aquatic and human health. The CyAN mobile application will provide water quality managers with a user-friendly platform for accessing satellite data to allow fast, efficient, initial assessments across lakes and reservoirs.

Office of Water Award for Improving National Lakes Assessment (NLA) Data Collection

A team including an ORD scientist has received the Office of Water's 2017 Achievement in Science and Technology Award for reducing the processing time for lake monitoring data from months to minutes. ORD's member of the NLA Field Logistics Team used applications and iPads to better capture the monitoring data and quickly provide it to partners and collaborators.

ORD Partnership with Tyson Foods

ORD in collaboration with the Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) signed a Materials Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with Tyson Foods on May 20 to study the potential for water reuse in protein processing operations. Tyson, ORD, and OWM hope to collaborate with USDA on risk assessment and treatment options for applying fit-for-purpose water reuse in Tyson's operations.

Inorganic Arsenic Protocol. On May 29th, the IRIS Program will release the "Updated Problem Formulation and Protocol for Inorganic Arsenic IRIS Assessment" for a 30-day public comment period.

Upcoming Events

Scientific Integrity Annual Employee Conversation

On June 6, the Scientific Integrity Program will host its Agency-wide Annual Employee Conversation with the Scientific Integrity Official at 1:00 pm eastern time.

EPA Workshop on Lead Mapping Coordination

ORD, OCSPP and the Administrator's Office are co-leading a 1.5-day EPA workshop, from May 29-30, on Lead (Pb) Mapping Coordination. Alex Dunn (OSCPP) and Bruce Rodan (ORD) will provide a welcome and opening remarks. The outcomes will identify and strengthen EPA's capabilities to contribute to Federal Action Plan Goal 4 (research), Action 2: "Generate data, maps, and mapping tools to identify high exposure communities or locations and disparities for prioritization efforts to reduce children's blood lead levels." The workshop goal is to share information and understand the different EPA Lead (Pb) mapping approaches, to develop a coordinated EPA vision related to EPA's statutory and programmatic requirements; lay the groundwork for collaboration with federal partners (e.g., Federal Lead Action Plan); and develop a coordinated EPA message for external partners. We expect participation from all regional offices and relevant program offices.

PFAS Plant Visit, Fayetteville, NC

On May 30, ORD, OECA and the North Carolina DEQ will visit the Chemours Fayetteville plant. The primary objective for the visit is to observe and better understand the various processes at the plant and how they potentially translate into air emissions. It is also an opportunity to learn more about the plant's existing emission control strategies and technologies. The air permit modification package that Chemours submitted to NCDEQ for the planned thermal oxidizer indicates the installation will be complete and operational by the end of this year.